プロテインにはココアが
一番合うと思う……。

寺嶋裕二

Shonen Magazine Comics

Ace of Diamond

ダイヤのA エース

青道

20

寺嶋裕二

講談社

KCM4285

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寺嶋裕二
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ダイヤのA
エース

CHAPTER 166 / LIMIT

CHAPTER 167 / ONCE AGAIN

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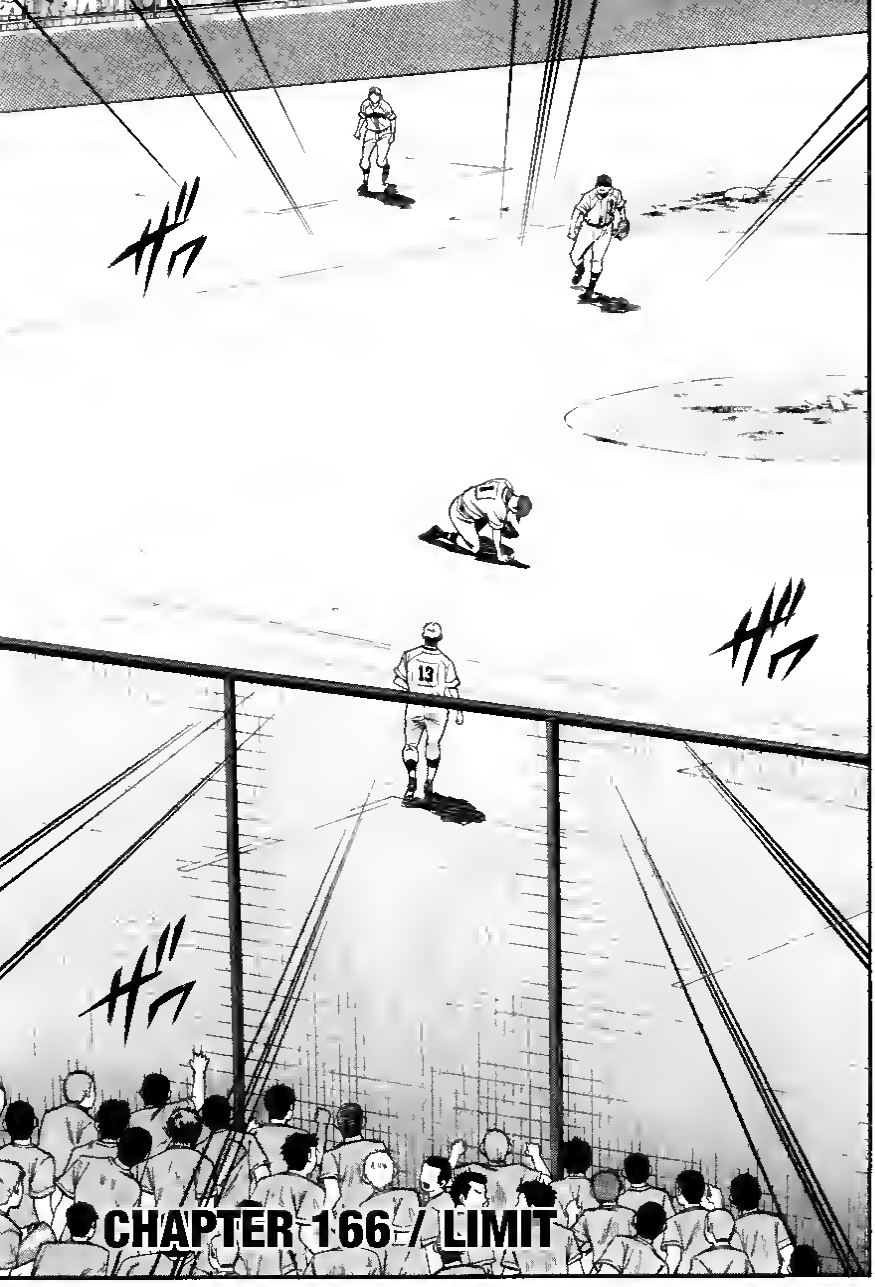
CHAPTER 173 / THE BATTER WHO HIT

CHAPTER 174 / HONOUR AND PRIDE

●週刊少年マガジン2009年第47号～2010年第4・5合併号

TOKYO IS... SOOO HOT...
HIGH SCHOOLS STUDENTS SOMETIMES DO PUT ON A GAME THAT IS ON PAR WITH THE PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS...
BUT WHAT A GAME.
OF COURSE I WANT SEIDOU TO WIN...
IT'S TOUGH ON THE SUPPORTERS TOO..

AT THIS LEVEL, MY GRANDSON WON'T GET TO PLAY IN THE GAME...
DID EIJUN GET THE ORDER TO PLAY?
WHAT IS IT!?



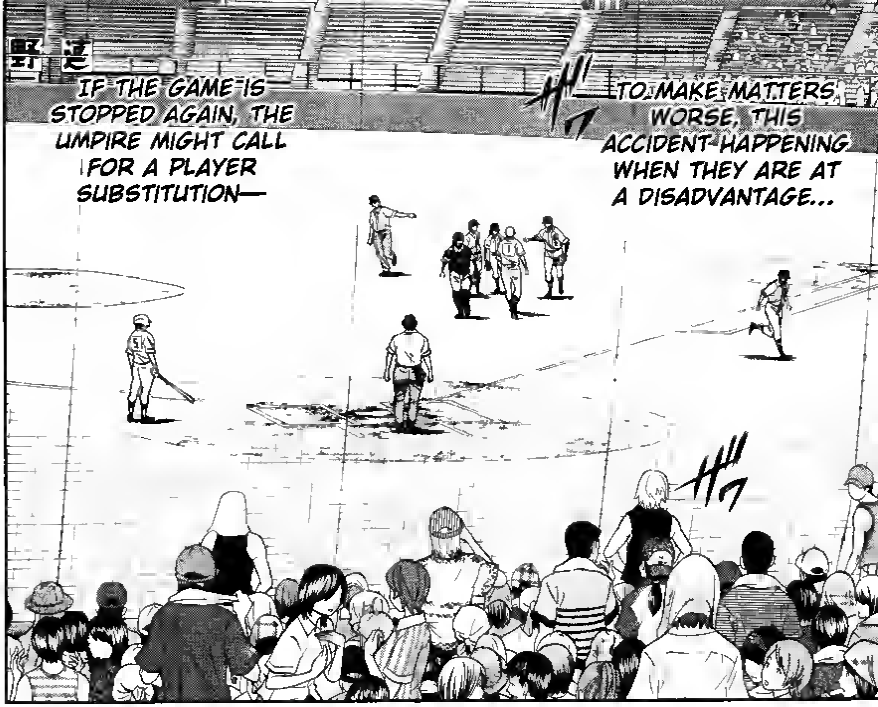
CHAPTER 166 / LIMIT

……!!
TANBA!
TANBA-SAN!
Uniden

SORRY, TIMEOUT!
OI OI, GIVE ME A BREAK...
NO.. AFTER HE HANDLED THE BUNT, HE SUDDENLY...
OI? OI. WHAT'S GOING ON? WAS HE HIT BY THE BALL?

...TCH...
...HOW IS IT..?
IT'S JUST A LEG CRAMP...
LOOKS LIKE IT WASN'T A PULLED MUSCLE OR SPASM

I'M ALRIGHT ...
I CAN STILL PLAY...
ザワ
主催
ザワ
I'M GLAD... SEEMS LIKE IT'S NOT A MAJOR PROBLEM...
ザワ
THOUGH I THINK PART OF IT IS THE PRESSURE OF BEING IN THE FINALS.
AS EXPECTED... AND ALSO UNDER THE HEAT...
THIS IS THE WORST.


IF THE GAME IS STOPPED AGAIN, THE UMPIRE MIGHT CALL FOR A PLAYER SUBSTITUTION—
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THIS ACCIDENT HAPPENING WHEN THEY ARE AT A DISADVANTAGE...

YOU CAN TAKE YOUR TIME IN PITCHING!
WHAT OTHERS SAY DOESN'T MATTER!

GET A GRIP OF YOURSELF, TANBA
WANNA DO THE HIDDEN BALL TRICK?
Hyahaha

...IS... IS HE ALRIGHT ...
TANBA ...
LET FURUYA-KUN AND TANBA-KUN PITCH FOR THE 9 INNINGS...
I THINK THIS IS THE MOST IDEAL FORMATION WITHOUT THE RISKS FROM THE PITCHER RELAY...
C... COACH!
12
6
S
.....

BOTTOM OF 7TH. PLAY BALL!
CARLOS-KUN, WHO GOT ON BASE WITH A HIT, ADVANCED THANKS TO HIS TEAMMATE'S BUNT. 1 OUT, RUNNER ON 2ND.
NOW IT IS INASHIRO'S CLEANUP AT-BAT!!
THE RELIEF PITCHER...
Will they be alright?

ｲﾄﾞ
GIVE IT YOUR BEST, TANBA!
KEEP IT UP!
GDEI
LET'S GO!
LET HIM HIT IT, TANBA—
ﾚﾌﾞﾛ
YEARGH!!

SAKAI.
GO WARM UP RIGHT NOW!
KOMI-NATO.
Y... YES SIR!!
YES SIR!!
KADOTA!! TELL THOSE 2 IN THE BULLPEN TO GET READY!

Whoosh!
I CAN'T BE SENT OFF THE MOUND...
FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
THE COUNT IS 2-1.
BALL!
TOSHIBA

AND CAUSE THE TEAM TROUBLE—
STRIKE!
Nice ball!
NICE BALL!!
TANBA-SAN!
I...
I AM...

THE ACE OF THIS TEAM—

NO
STRIKE!
BATTER OUT!

Yeargh!
HE'S REALLY HARD TO DEAL WITH~~
TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO BE THAT GOOD A PITCHER...
NICE PITCH-ING!
2 OUT! 2 OUT!
TAN-DA!

BUT, THIS IS HIS LIMIT...!
GIVE HIM THE FINISHING BLOW... MASA-SAN...!

I WILL STOP THEM RIGHT NOW...!!
STOP—...

SEIKO

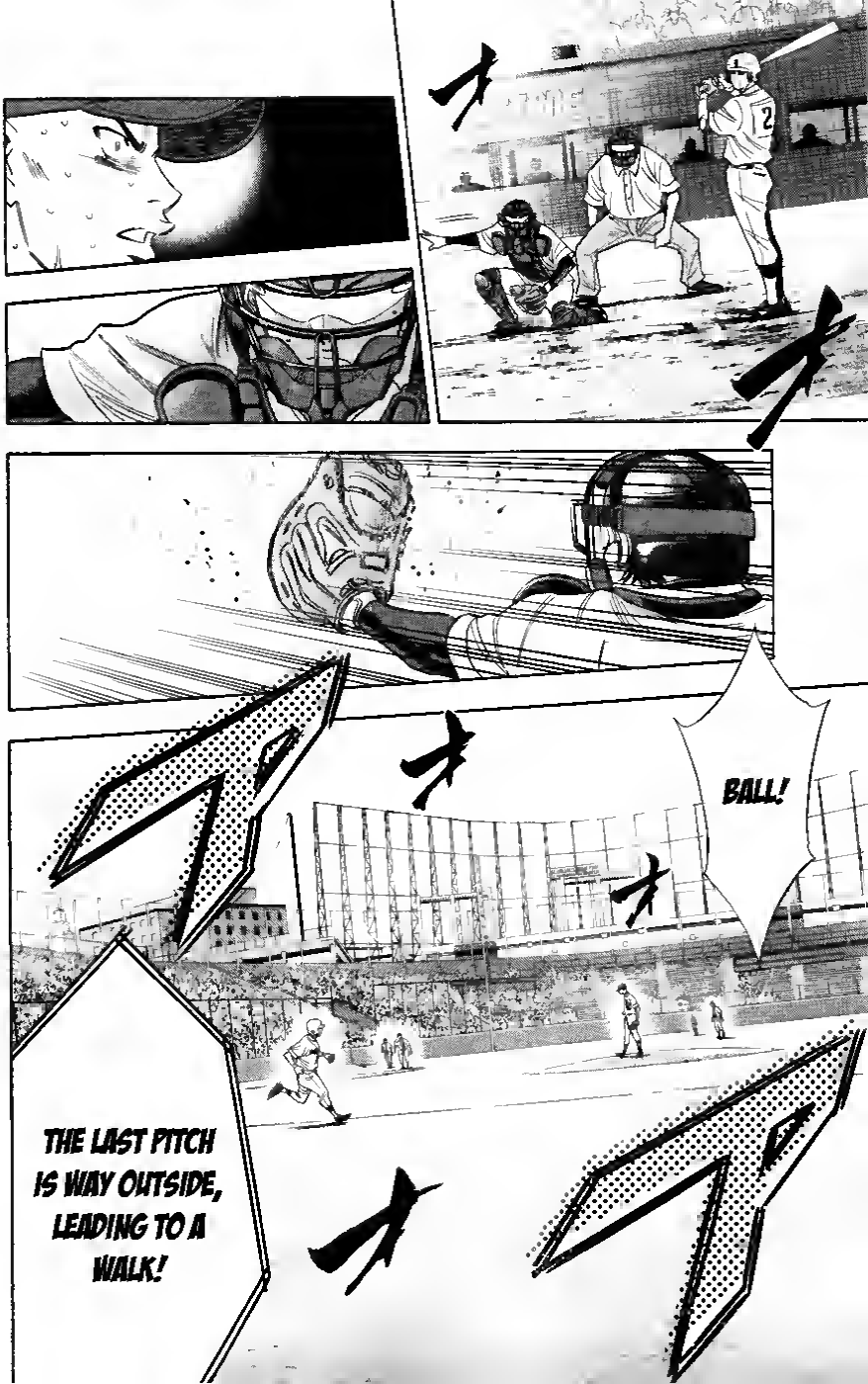
CHAPTER 167 / ONCE AGAIN...

FOUL!
IT'S SHARPER THAN I EXPECTED...
I MISSED THE TIMING AND SWUNG TOO EARLY.
AIRC
AHHH~
WHAT A PITY!
That was close~

TOSHIBA
TANBA-SA...
INASHIRO

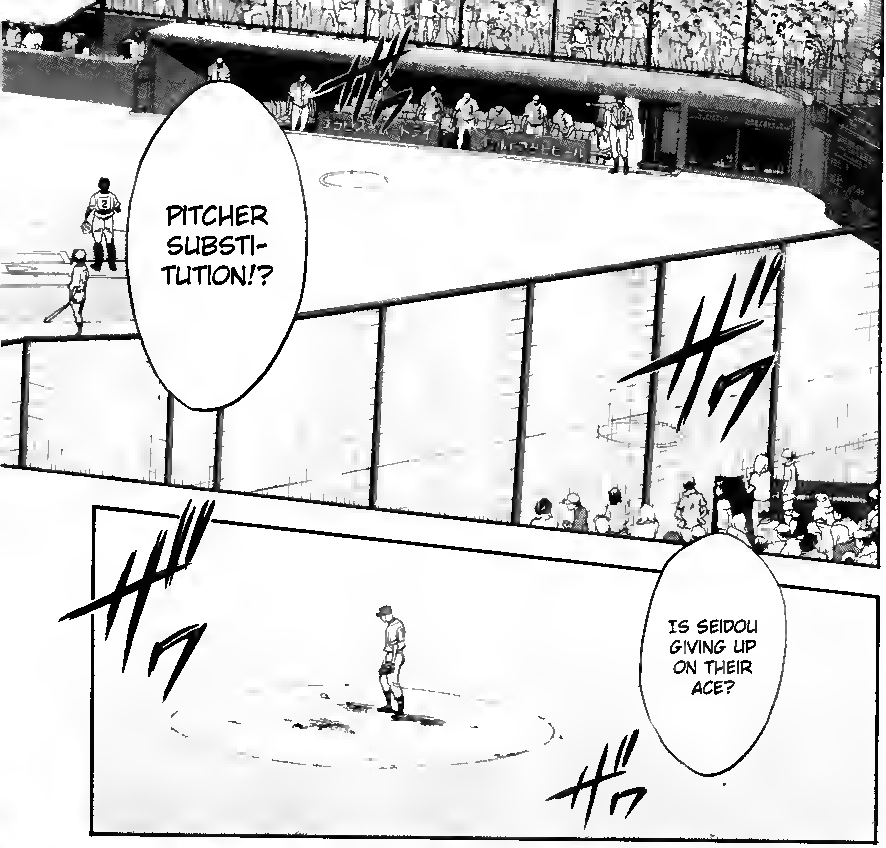
C... COACH..
HE'S ALREADY
TANBA

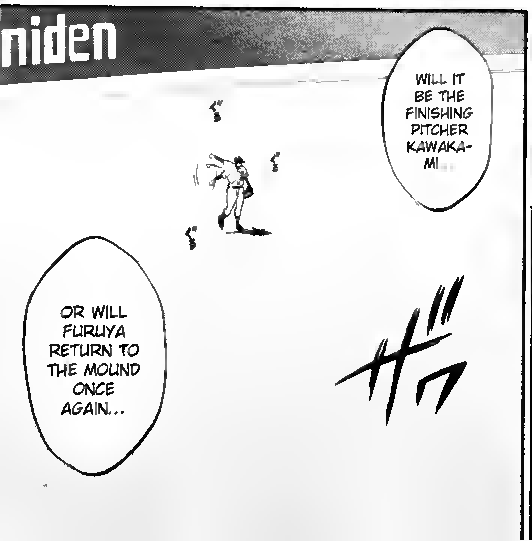
BOTTOM OF THE 7TH, 2 OUTS, RUNNER ON 2ND.
THEY CAN'T GIVE UP ANY MORE RUNS! THIS IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR SEIDOU.
8
BALL!
WASH!
OUT OF THE ZONE, THE COUNT IS 3 AND 1.
2


BALL!
THE LAST PITCH IS WAY OUTSIDE, LEADING TO A WALK!

WITH THIS, HE EVADES FIGHTING IT OUT WITH THE CLEANUP.
IS HE CHOOSING TO FIGHT IT OUT WITH NARUMIYA-KUN INSTEAD?
TOKYO
TIME-OUT, PLEASE.
HEH~~
CAN YOU EVEN HAVE A PROPER FACE-OFF WITH ME?

S
SK


PITCHER SUBSTI-TUTION!?
IS SEIDOU GIVING UP ON THEIR ACE?


niden
WILL IT BE THE FINISHING PITCHER KAWAKA-MI...
OR WILL FURUYA RETURN TO THE MOUND ONCE AGAIN...

IT CAN'T BE HELPED HE'S IN THAT STATE
BUT, THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE UP ANY MORE RUNS
IF THE RELIEF PITCHER MESSES UP AT THIS POINT...

BOTTOM OF 7TH, SEIDOU SENT WORD ON THEIR PITCHER CHANGE.
COMING IN FOR NUMBER 8, TANBA-KUN, IS
PITCHER
20

SAWAMURA-KUN.
TOK
Bigone!
IT IS TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO STEP ONTO THIS STAGE~~
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING... OLD MAN.
N... NO WAY~~
E... EI-JUN~~

THE BRAT FROM THAT TIME?
HAH! IS THIS FOR REAL?
CSK
SO IT'S THE 1ST YEAR SOUTH-PAW...
SOUTHPAW AGAINST SOUTH-PAW... COULD HE BE A SHORT RELIEF AGAINST NARUMIYA?
THAT GUY WHO YELLS SO MUCH?
IN A SITUATION WITH A RUNNER ON BASE, AND NARUMIYA GOT A HIT OFF FURUYA JUST NOW...
...
HOGOUNE
THAT TANBA... HE DIDN'T EVEN PITCH 3 INNINGS..
AM I BEING UNDER-ESTIMA-TED?
ARE THEY LOOKING DOWN ON ME!?

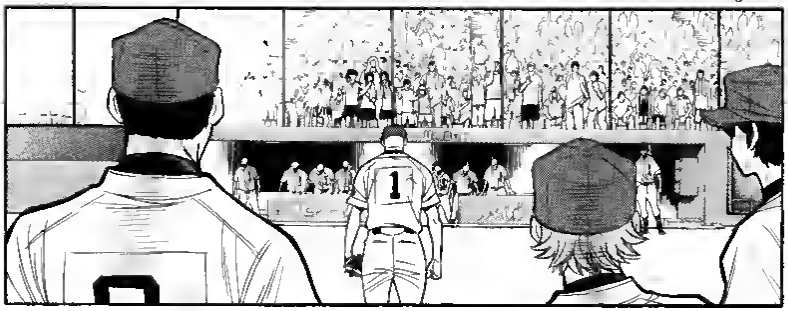
T/N: "SHORT RELIEF" MEANS THE PITCHER IS BROUGHT IN SPECIFICALLY FOR A PARTICULAR BATTER

TO BE TAKEN OFF THE MOUND AT THIS TIME...
IT MUST BE FRUSTRATING...
SAWAMURA.
20

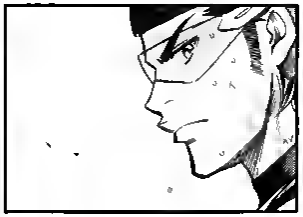
YOU ARE THE ACE FROM HERE ON ..
PITCH WITH THAT IN MIND.
青道

TANBA-SA...
1
ぐぐ

TANBA!

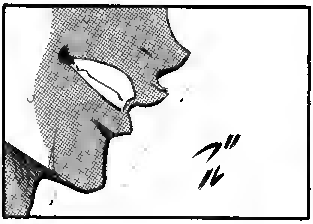


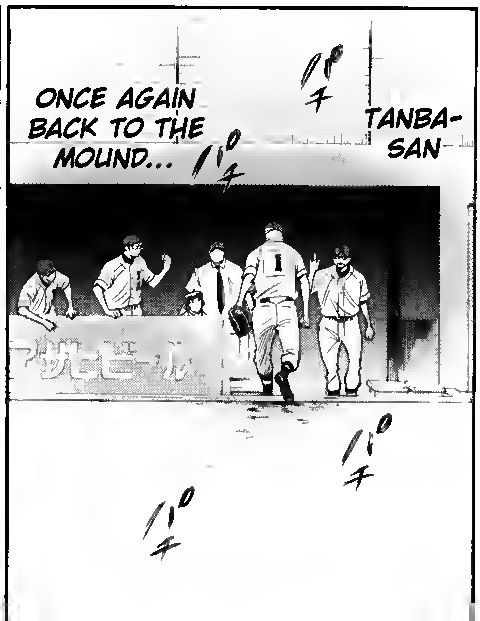
IT'S NOT OVER YET.

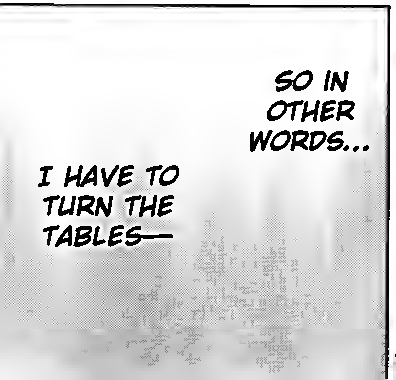


ONCE AGAIN.
WE WILL DEFINITELY LET YOU STAND ON THE MOUND ONCE AGAIN.

We will avenge you!




ONCE AGAIN BACK TO THE MOUND...
TANBA-SAN


SO IN OTHER WORDS...
I HAVE TO TURN THE TABLES—

WE'RE THE ONES GOING TO KOSHIEN—...
OI, SAWA-MURA.
Uwoh!
So cool
WOW...
HAHA-HA...
YOU GET IT, DON'T YOU.

THE THING WE NEED MOST IN THIS SITUATION IS NEITHER TECHNIQUES NOR YOUR SPECIALTY.
IT'S THIS!
YOU UNDERSTAND
YES!
THIS IS MY VALUE, AFTER ALL!!
I am still a newbie after all!
FINISH

Ace of Diamond

SAWA-
MURA.
LAST
PITCH.
ダイヤのA
エース

YEAH!
DON'T YELL DURING PITCHING DRILLS!
CHAPTER 168 / WHICH IS IT?

SORRY FOR THE LONG WAIT, CHIEF UMPIRE.
PLEASE RESUME THE GAME NOW.
DON'T ORDER ME AROUND... YOU
ALRIGHT!

Hey, don't make a bad impression
THAT IDIOT IS TOO NERVOUS
NO... HE'S JUST LIKE USUAL.
SO THAT IS REALLY EIJUN!!
YEAH...
WATCH THE GAME PROPERLY!
I'LL LET THEM HIT...
NO!
I'LL TAKE THEM DOWN ONE BY ONE. EVERYONE PLEASE LEND ME YOUR GUIDANCE!
SHUT UP, IDIOT!!
TAKE A DEEP BREATH!
INASHIRI

HE IS A SOUTHPAW RELIEF PITCHER WITH A WEIRD PITCHING FORM. HE FILLS THE GAP UNTIL THEY SEND IN THE CLOSER, KAWAKAMI.
1ST YEAR PITCHER
SAWAMURA EIJUN...
ALTHOUGH IT WAS OFTEN HIT TO THE OUTFIELD BECAUSE IT LACKS POWER, MOST OF THE HITS ARE CLOSE CALLS.
HIS GREATEST FEATURE IS HIS WEIRD PITCH.
GRADUALLY BECOMING...
EVEN IN SEIDOU'S PITCHING ROSTER, HIS PRESENCE IS GRADUALLY BECOMING SOMETHING TO BE RECKONED WITH.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HE IS SENT IN DURING CRUCIAL SITUATIONS.

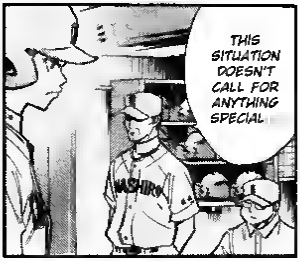
IN THE END, ARE YOU AMAZING?
OR NOT?
SEIKO
TOSHIBA
TOYOTA

WHICH IS IT, YOU—...

2 OUT, RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 2ND.
FLEET-FOOTED CARLOS IS ON 2ND.
CSK
SEIDOU'S OUTFIELD PLAYERS MOVING IN, POSITIONING THEMSELVES SO TO PREVENT ANOTHER RUN.
BUT...
STRIKING OUT THE BATTER IS MORE IDEAL
IF POSSIBLE, THEY'RE HOPING FOR AN INFIELD HIT.

THAT GUY... DOES HE REALLY GET IT?
20
IT COULD BE THE END OF THIS GAME...
IF THEY SCORE ANY MORE RUNS...
青道

T/N: TY COBB IS A BASEBALL LEGEND KNOWN FOR INVENTING/MAKING HIS OWN BATS. THIS IS SUPPOSEDLY A CORK GRIP BAT. THE JAPANESE CALLS THESE "TY COBB STYLE BATS"

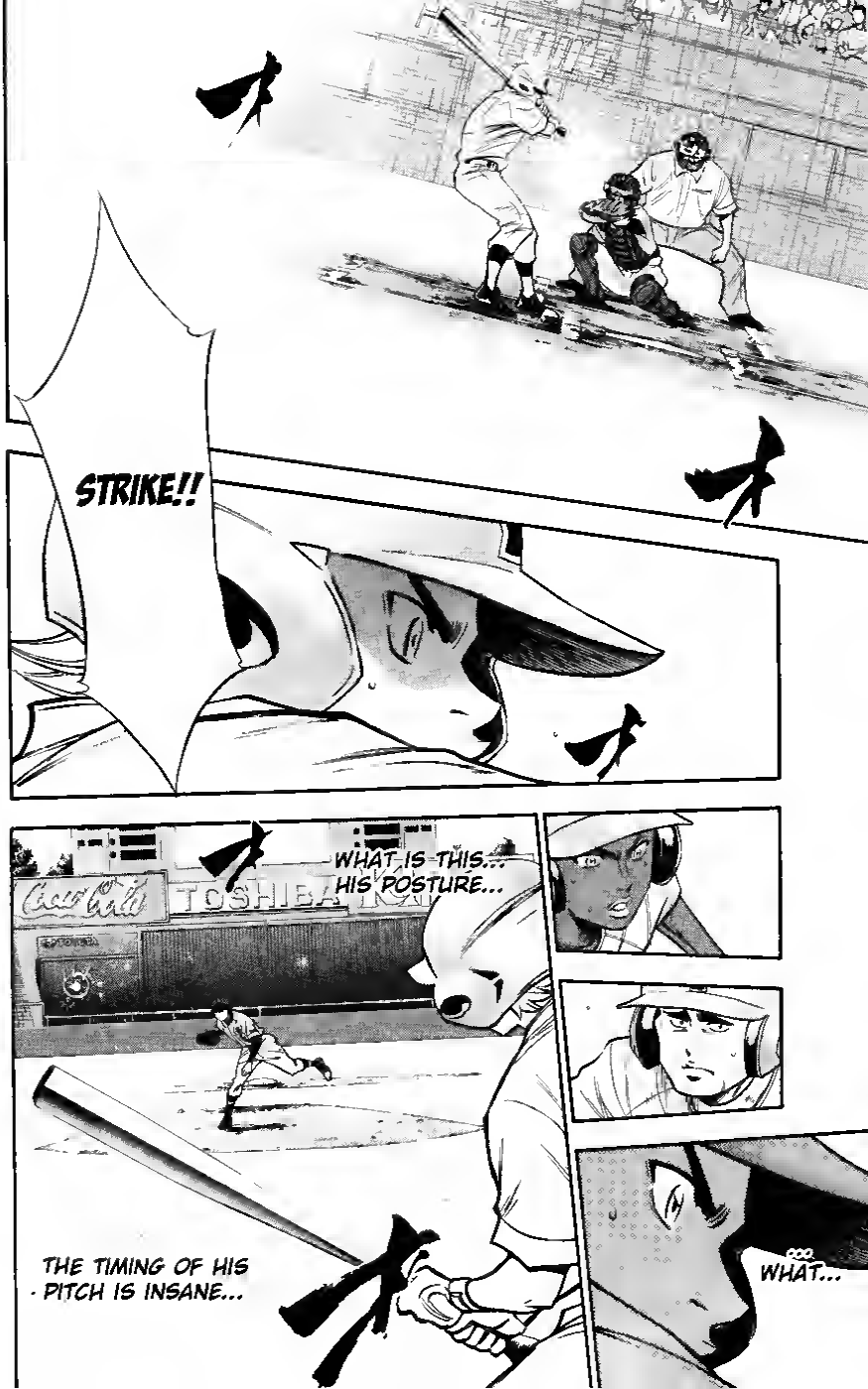


IF HE PITCHES EASY ONES, I'LL SEND IT FLYING!
THIS GUY CAN ONLY PITCH PECULIAR FASTBALLS...
FURUYA TOO...
AND TANBA TOO HAD SHOWN ME THEIR BEST...
THAT SAID... HOW WILL KAZUYA LEAD THIS SORT OF PITCHER...

PITCH IT TO ME
WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT—
TOKYO

TOKYO
1
ザッ

TOSHIBA


STRIKE!!
WHAT IS THIS... HIS POSTURE...
THE TIMING OF HIS PITCH IS INSANE...
...WHAT...

S
TOKYO
NICE BALL!
YEAH!
WAY TO GO, SAWAMURA!!

LINE DRIVE OR WHATEVER, IT'S OVER IF THEY GIVE UP ANY RUNS!!
LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE STRENGTH-ENED THEIR RESOLUTION
IF HE MESSED UP, IT WOULD BE A LINE DRIVE...
IS HE FOR REAL? THE FIRST PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER IN THIS SITUATION!?

YEAH. .
WITH THESE, THEY CAN EVEN USE THEIR OUTSIDE CORNER PITCHES EFFECTIVELY.

HIS PITCHES
MUST LOOK FASTER THAN EXPECTED FROM THE BATTER'S BOX. .
WELL, THAT'S EXPECTED. HE'S THE DAMNED BRAT WHO DARED TO CHALLENGE ME ..

STRIKE TWO—!!
DAMN... AGAIN.
THE 2ND PITCH IS ALSO TO THE INSIDE CORNER!!

WOW...
THIS BATTERY IS ATTACKING.
HN... THIS STRONG LEAD IS JUST LIKE THAT CATCHER'S STYLE...
THE LAST IS A PITCH DIAGONAL TOWARDS THE OUTSIDE CORNER—

WHAT...
CSK
IT... IT CAN'T BE...
A 3RD CONSECUTIVE...

PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER—

BRIDGESTONE
DON'T MESS WITH ME...
DAMN YOU...

BRIDGESTONE

青道

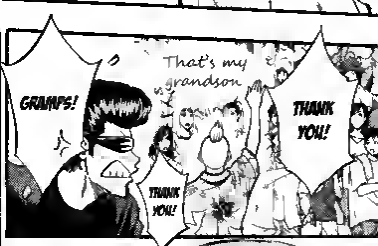
CHAPTER 169 / RESOLUTION

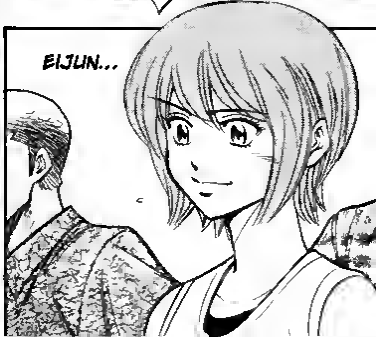
YES!
INASHIRO
Yosh!
Yosh!
Uwoh~~
TCH.

WERE TO THE INSIDE CORNER
ALSO, ALL OF THOSE..
WHAT
NARUMIYA-KUN FANNED OUT IN THREE PITCHES...
NARUMIYA WILL EVEN SWING AT BALLS IF HE GETS SERIOUS...
HM...
Hahaha that idiot swung at all balls!
TAKE THAT!
KEEP PITCHING TO THE INSIDE CORNER!!
THE CATCHER IS SOMETHING.
HE SAW THROUGH THE BATTER'S PERSONALITY AND CALLED THE LEAD...

IN THIS SITUATION,
IT TAKES A LOT OF NERVE. THAT 1ST YEAR BOY.

SAWA-MURA!
Yosh! Yosh!
THAT'S ENOUGH!!

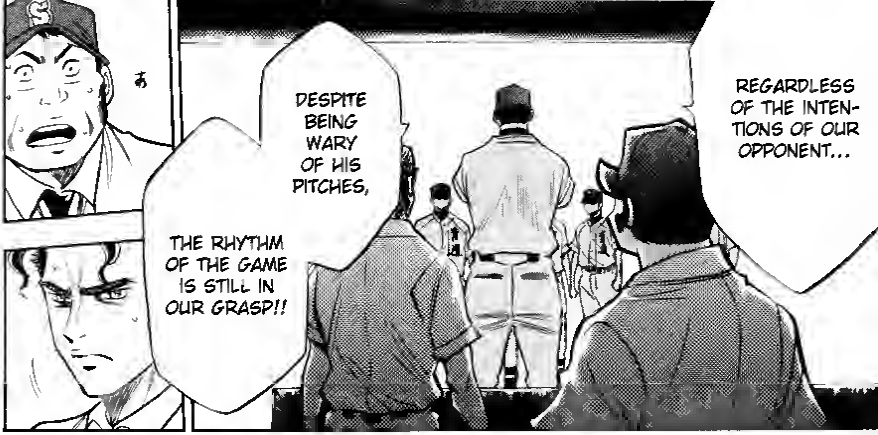

That's my grandson
GRAMPS!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!


EIJUN...

NICE BALL!

AT THIS POINT, NARUMIYA HAS ALREADY PITCHED 10 CHANGEUPS...
UP THROUGH THE 5TH INNING, HE ONLY PITCHED 4 CHANGEUPS,
BUT HE PITCHED 6 CHANGEUPS IN THE 6TH INNING...
HE EMBEDDED THE IMPRESSION OF THIS PITCH DURING YUUKI'S FIRST AT-BAT.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S REMINDING US OF THIS PITCH AGAIN...

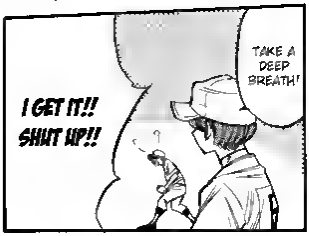
EVEN WHEN WE WATCHED THE VIDEOS OF HIS PRE-FINALS GAMES, HE ONLY PITCHED ROUND 10 CHANGEUPS...
ACTUALLY, IN THIS GAME,
HE STOPPED PITCHING CHANGEUPS AFTER ISASHIKI KNOCKED ONE INTO THE OUTFIELD...
IT COULD BE OUR OPPONENT...
THERE HAS TO BE A REASON THEY DON'T WANT TO PITCH TOO MANY CHANGEUPS...
AH... INDEED. I FELT SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH THAT STRANGE LEAD...
ALTHOUGH THIS THOUGHT ITSELF.... IF IT IS OUR OPPONENT'S INTENTION...
...


あ
DESPITE BEING WARY OF HIS PITCHES,
THE RHYTHM OF THE GAME IS STILL IN OUR GRASP!!
REGARDLESS OF THE INTENTIONS OF OUR OPPONENT...

A PATH WILL OPEN...
IF WE KEEP UP OUR ATTACKS, AT THIS RATE,

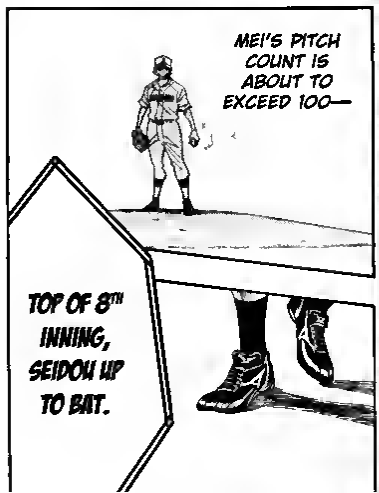
GIVE UP THE CHANGEUP!!
TOSHI
MEI, LAST ONE!
140

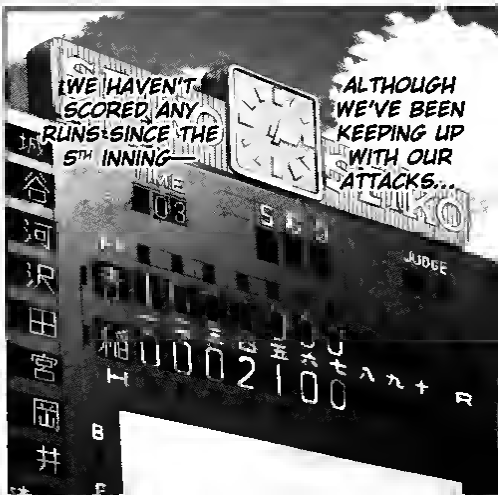
LET IT GO, MEI!
CHANGE THE PACE!


TAKE A DEEP BREATH!
I GET IT!! SHUT UP!!

ムスー

I DON'T LIKE THIS ATMOSPHERE...


MEI'S PITCH COUNT IS ABOUT TO EXCEED 100—
TOP OF 8TH INNING, SEIDOU UP TO BAT.


WE HAVEN'T SCORED ANY RUNS SINCE THE 5TH INNING—
ALTHOUGH WE'VE BEEN KEEPING UP WITH OUR ATTACKS...
JUDGE
TIME
03
城谷河沢田宮岡井

7TH BATTER, LEFT FIELDER FURUYA-KUN.
FURU-YA——!!
MON-STER-KUN!
TOKYO
I'M READY TO RETURN TO THE MOUND...
ゴゴゴゴ
Wahaha
HIT IT～～ FURUYA～～
SHOW 'EM～～
HMPH
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, MEI—!!
HE MANAGED A HIT IN HIS PREVIOUS AT-BAT...
NO WAY AM I LETTING MY GUARD DOWN.

I AM THE ONE
BOILING WITH ANGER NOW—

AN INSIDE CORNER
CROSS-FIRE!
IT'S AS IF HIS PITCHING IS REVENGE FOR GETTING STRUCK OUT JUST NOW—
THE COUNT IS 1 AND 2. SEIDOU IS DRIVEN INTO A CORNER.

WHEN WILL HE USE IT?
HIS WINNING SHOT, THE CHANGEUP.
ドン
ドン
DON'T HESITATE—

I WANT TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH MY OWN SWING TILL THE END—
THE 4TH PITCH—
HMPH.

BESTONE

A FASTBALL TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER.
HE HIT IT PERFECT-LY—!!

FURUYA-KUN HIT IT TO BEHIND THE RIGHT FIELDER!
COULD THIS BE THE START OF THEIR COUNTER ATTACK AT THE TOP OF THE 8TH INNING—

RIN
NICE BATTING, FURUYA!
DON'T HOLD IT IN!
IT'S ALL RIGHT TO DO A MORE EXAGGERATED GUTS POSE!
FUFU-FU...
AHAHAHAHA YOU HIT WELL, FURUYA!
NOW LEAVE THIS TO ME~~!!

THE LEAD-OFF BATTER IN THE TOP OF THE 8TH INNING, FURUYA-KUN.
HIT IT BEHIND THE RIGHT FIELDER.
FUHAHAHAHA, YOU HIT WELL, FURUYA!
NOW LEAVE IT TO ME～～!!

ダイヤのA

CHAPTER 170 / A CHANCE APPEARS

AWE...
AWESOME!!
Yosh yosh!
Yosh! Yosh!!
SHUT UP!!
IT'S ONLY A BUNT!
THE SACRI-FICE BUNT WORKED——!!

1 OUT, RUNNER ON 2ND.
A SURE WAY TO LET THE RUNNER ADVANCE BASE.
IS THAT KID BELOVED BY THE GOD OF BASEBALL..
Whew—
THE SON OF GOD
ALTHOUGH THEY ARE STILL 2 RUNS BEHIND, THEY ADVANCED THEIR RUNNER..
YEAH.
WHAT'S WITH THIS STABLE PERFOR-MANCE!
NICE BUNT, SAWA-MURA!
DAMN YOU!!

I THOUGHT THEY WOULD SEND A PINCH HITTER, BUT
IT SEEMS LIKE SAWAMURA-KUN WILL BE PITCHING IN THE NEXT INNING, TOO.
WHY AM I NOT ALLOWED TO SWING...
WHAT'S WITH THAT DISSATISFIED FACE!!
YOU'RE ONLY GOOD AT BUNTING!!
I SEE...
KEEP UP THE PACE!
WHEN THAT KID IS PRESENT, THE PLAYING FIELD BRIGHTENS UP...
ALSO, THAT STRIKEOUT IN 3 PITCHES LIGHTENED THE ATMOSPHERE ON THE FIELD—

CSK
CSK グループ
9

9TH BATTER, SHIRASU-KUN.
SWUNG AT THE 1ST PITCH—
WHY ARE THEY SUDDENLY...
SWINGING MORE THAN EXPECTED.
MEI!!

THEY COULDN'T SEND IT BACK TO 1ST IN TIME!
YEAH!
THE RUNNER ON 2ND ADVANCES TO 3RD!
YEAH!
WITH THIS, IT'S 1 OUT, RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD.

SHIRASU...
SHIRASU ROARED!!
SHIRASU'S GUTS POSE!!
KURA-MOCHI!
GO FOR IT!
KEEP IT UP, KURA-MOCHI!
SORRY, TIMEOUT...

INASHIRO TECH'S INFIELDERS ARE GATHERING AT THE MOUND.
You don't have to come!
THEY TOOK A TIMEOUT TO MAKE SOME TIME BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH.
1 OUT, RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD.
YEAH ...
THERE ARE PLENTY OF STRATEGIES FOR THIS SITUATION.
THEY COULD GO FOR A SQUEEZE PLAY, TOO...

NO MATTER WHAT, THEY HAVE TO GET AT LEAST 1 RUN.
6
青道
IN THAT REGARD, SEIDOU'S LINEUP...
IS WELL AWARE OF THE TASK AT HAND...

THEY MIGHT GO FOR A SQUEEZE PLAY!
I KNOW!
YOUR FACE IS TOO CLOSE!
Huge! Scary!
IN THIS SITUATION, WE CAN'T HELP GIVING UP A RUN!
MESSENGER
ERM—
It is huge!
What's with huge!
DON'T FORCE IT, BUT TRY TO GET AN OUT.
YEAH, I UNDERSTAND. INFIELDERS FOCUS ON DEFENDING THE MIDDLE,
OUTFIELDERS, WATCH OUT FOR LONG HITS.

...
I THINK THIS IS SUCH A TYPICAL STRATEGY!
NO!?
GOT A PROBLEM?
USE OUR 2-RUNS LEAD EFFECTIVE-LY..
YES! THE COACH WAS SAYING THIS, TOO.
Asahi
EVEN SO, IT'S 6 TO 4...
AH!
I'M TELLING YOU! THE PRESSURE IS ON THE BATTER, TOO!
OF COURSE OUR OPPONENT WILL BE ANXIOUS TO SCORE A RUN!
...
THEN SHOULDN'T IT BE 8:2 WITH US IN THE LEAD?
SINCE I AM PITCHING,
It's not even a pinch!
See!

REALLY...
HE'S CERTAINLY SURE OF HIMSELF...
NOW, DISMISSED!
IT'S SO HOT NOW. LET'S END THIS QUICKLY!

...WELL, THIS IS JUST LIKE MEI...

YOU'RE NOISY...
LET ME FINISH, MEI.
MEI, MAKE THE FIRST PITCH A TOUGH ONE!!
THAT WAY, WE CAN FIND OUT OUR OPPONENT'S STRATEGY...

IT IS MY DUTY!
ANYWAY, IT'S FINE TO GIVE UP A RUN
LET THIS INNING END WITH THEIR 1ST OR 2ND BATTER...

TOP OF THE 8TH INNING
ドン ドン
1 OUT, RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD—

HAVING ENDURED THE CRISES THAT CAME THEIR WAY SO OFTEN THUS FAR,
THE CHANCE FOR A COUNTER ATTACK SEIDOU HAS BEEN WAITING FOR HAS COME.
IN THIS ENDGAME,
THE GREATEST CHANCE HAS ARRIVED.

STANDING IN THEIR WAY IS
KANTOU'S NUMBER 1 SOUTHPAW PITCHER.
HE STOOD IN THE RIGHT BATTER BOX...
GO FOR IT, KURAMO-CHI—!!
HIT IT!
MEI-KUN!
NARUMI-YA—!!
6

KIKU-MIYA!
KING IN THERE!
HEI—!
THAT SAID, IF INASHIRO LET SEIDOU MANAGE A SQUEEZE PLAY THAT EASILY, THE GAME WILL TURN IN SEIDOU'S FAVOUR...
LOOKS LIKE THEY ARE PREPARED TO GIVE UP A RUN..
INASHIRO'S INFIELDERS ARE DEFENDING THE MIDDLE.
PASSÉ
REALLY...
OSHIBA
MASA-SAN
YOU REALLY ARE THE TYPE TO WORRY TOO MUCH.

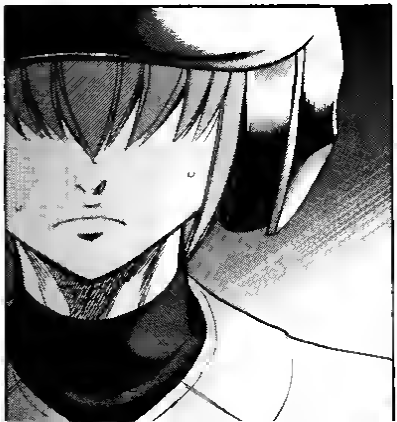
Thump
I GET THAT...
WE ARE AHEAD BY 2 RUNS...
THIS SITUATION...
IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT TIME...
ズクン
ズクン
西東京

IT'S ALL RIGHT!!
You can do it!!
YOU CAN DO IT, KURA-MOCHI-SENPAI!
I'LL NAIL IT...
SHOW SOME CONFI-DENCE!!
I WILL DEFINITELY SCORE—...
OKYO

Ace of Diamond

GO FOR IT!
KUKA-MO-CHI!!
4
ダイヤのA
YES SIR!
YOU'RE GOING IN AS THE NEXT BATTER...
GET READY..

CHAPTER 171 / *KOHAI*



FIRST ONE IS TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER!
BALL!
HMPH.
IF YOU WANT TO DO A SQUEEZE PLAY, JUST DO IT QUICKLY...
THEY'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING

THE 2ND PITCH IS A FASTBALL TOWARDS THE OUTSIDE CORNER!
YOU DON'T THINK THAT YOU CAN HIT IT?
AFTER ALL, EVEN IF YOU BAT NORMALLY,

アサヒビール
SO FAR, THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF A SQUEEZE PLAY...
THE COUNT IS 1 AND 1.
COULD IT BE A HIT AND RUN?
NO.. WE CAN'T BE SURE.
IT IS EXPECTED OF THEM TO PULL A TRICK AT SOME POINT—
RUNNERS ON THE CORNERS.

P/N. "RUNNERS ON THE CORNERS" = BASE RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD

THEY DID IT!!
SQUEEZE...

6
2

GAH!
TOKYO
!!
!!
!!

WOW!
UWOO-OOH!
HE... HIT IT—!!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
HE HIT IT WELL... JUST NOW
HGO UNE DOOG
IF HE HADN'T HIT IT, THE RUNNER WOULD HAVE BEEN CLOSED IN ON BOTH SIDES AND EVERYTHING WOULD BE OVER...

TOSHIBA
BUT... WITH THIS, IT'S 2 STRIKES..
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THEY'RE IN A PINCH...
8 TO 2 WITH US IN THE LEAD—...
THAT'S WHY I SAID...
A SITUATION WHERE LOSING 1 RUN CAN'T BE HELPED!?

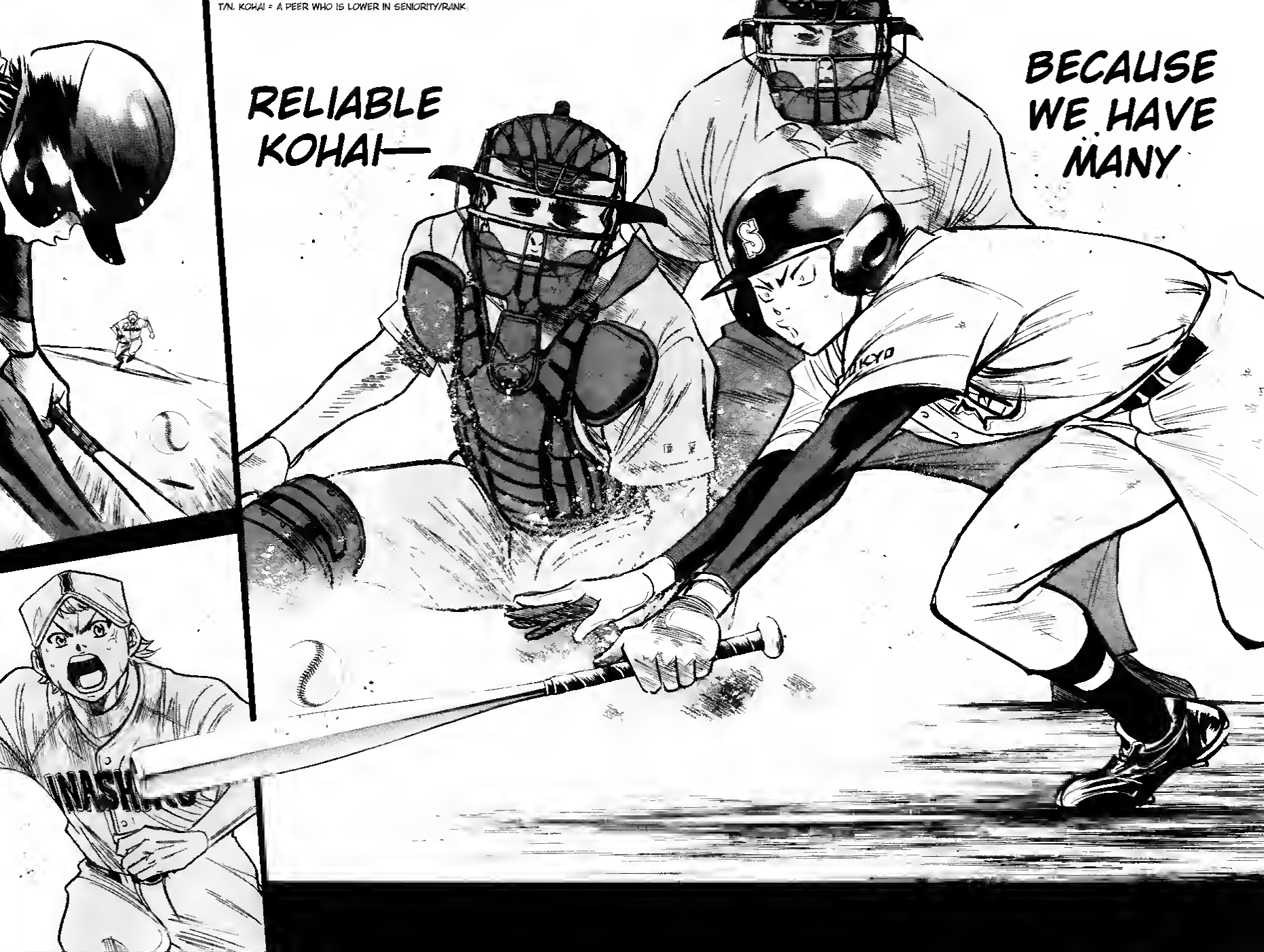
WHAT'S WITH THAT PESSIMISTIC THINKING—
BRIDGESTONE
THE COUNT IS 2 AND 2.
HE DIDN'T SWING.
TOSHIBA
TO BECOME A PITCHER WHO GETS ON THE MOUND EXPECTING TO LOSE RUNS!
EVEN IF I DIE, I WILL NEVER ALLOW MYSELF...

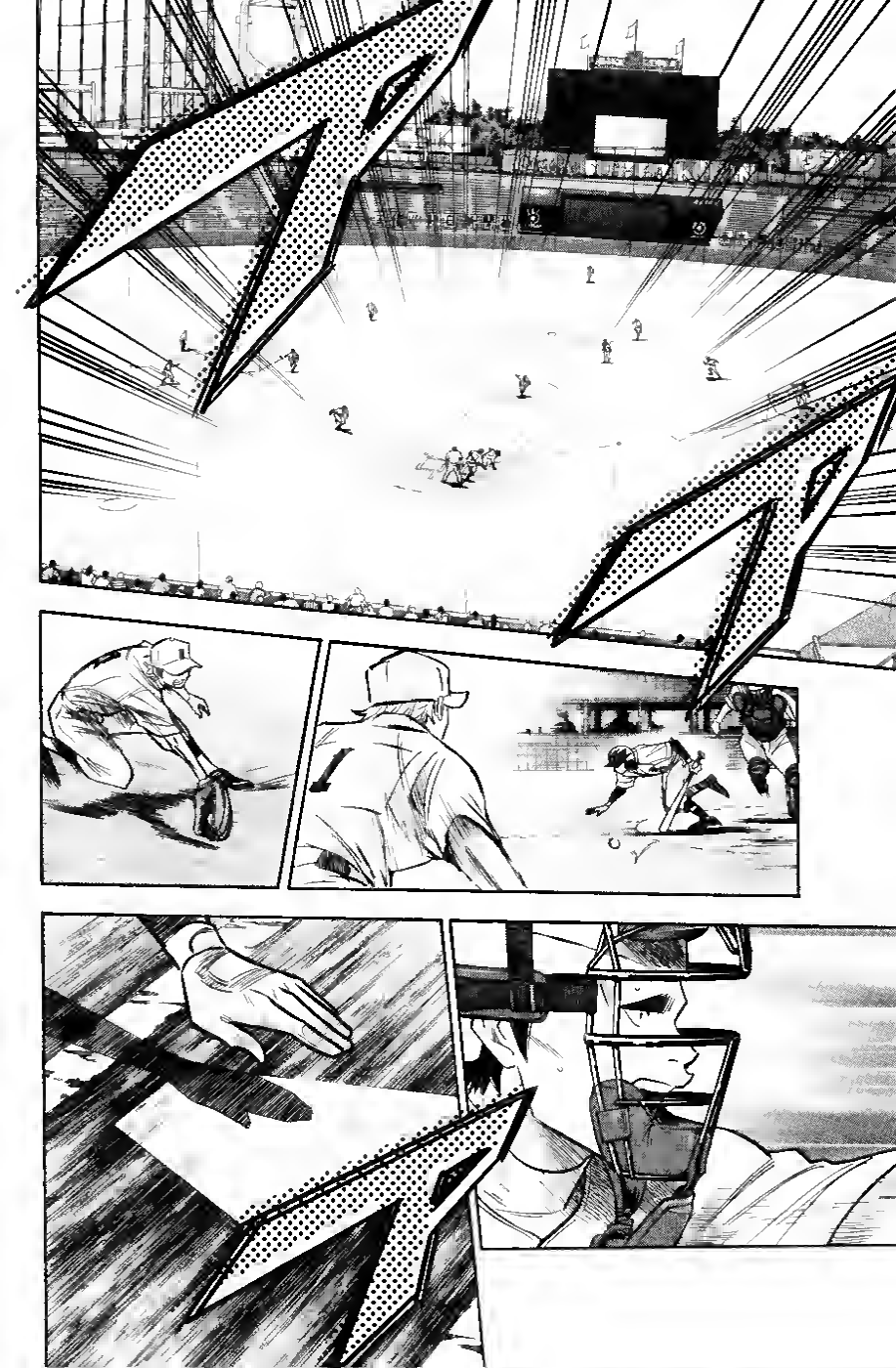
WHAT?
A BUNT WITH TWO STRIKES
SQUEEZE—...
You

WE HAVE TO SCORE...
WE ABSOLUTELY MUST SCORE—

ARE YOU INJURED?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KOMINATO?
RYOU-SAN.
HUH?
YOU WANT A PINCH HITTER?
I AM UNABLE TO PLAY UP TO EXPECTATION...
ALTHOUGH IT IS REGRETTABLE...
...YES.
IS THIS REALLY ALL RIGHT?

T/N: KOHAI = A PEER WHO IS LOWER IN SENIORITY/RANK





THE RUNNER FROM 3RD BASE IS BACK HOME!
A BUNT-WITH-TWO-STRIKES SQUEEZE PLAY THROUGH KURAMOCHI-KUN'S SHEER DETERMINATION!!

ダイヤのA
YEAH!
KURA-MOCHI!!
NICE BUNT, KURAMO-CHI!
SHUT UP!! STOP TALK-ING AS IF I HAD MESSED UP!
Yay!
WAHAHAHAHA, YOU DID IT BIG TIME! KURAMOCHI-SENPAI!!
I KNOW!
MEI!! THE NEXT BATTER.
THEY PULLED ONE OVER US
BUT WITH THIS, IT'S 2 OUT.
WITH THIS, THEIR LEAD IS DOWN TO 1 RUN.
JUST ONE MORE RUN.

PLAYER CHANGE FOR SEIDOU!
HUH!?
A PINCH HITTER NOW?
BUT ISN'T THE NEXT BATTER A GOOD ONE...
REPLACING 2ND BATTER, 2ND BASEMAN KOMINATO RYOUSUKE-KUN,

PINCH HITTER
KOMINATO
HARUICHI-KUN.

HIT THE FIRST PITCH JUST AS YOU LIKE ..
HARUICHI

CHAPTER 172 / HERO

TOP OF 8TH, SEIDOU HIGH FINALLY CLOSED TO WITHIN A RUN.
NOW, IT'S 2 OUTS, RUNNER ON 2ND.
WITH A RUNNER IN SCORING POSITION,
IT'S THE TRUMP CARD PINCH HITTER, KOMINATO HARUICHI-KUN.

ALTHOUGH HE'S A 1ST YEAR, HIS PINCH HITTING RESULTS ARE 3 HITS FOR HIS 3 AT-BATS, 1.000 BATTING AVERAGE.
THE LUCKY BOY OF THIS TEAM.
HIT IT AS YOU LIKE, HARUCCHI!
A CHANCE TO BECOME A REAL MAN!
GO FOR FIELDING DRILLS NOW! SAWAMURA!
THE MOST TROUBLESOME BATTER, EVEN IN THAT BATTING LINEUP, KOMINATO-SAN WAS TAKEN OFF THE FIELD...
HIS 1ST YEAR YOUNGER BROTHER?
KURAMOCHI
NICE BUNT!

DO THEY REALLY TRUST HIM THAT MUCH?
THIS BATTER..
19
IT WOULD BE THE BIGGEST BOOST TO THEIR MORALE
IF THEIR PINCH HITTER LANDED A GOOD HIT ..
1ST YEAR
A WOODEN BAT
TAKE THEM DOWN WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH—

DO YOU REALLY WANT ME
TO BREAK THAT BAT SO MUCH?
YOU'RE STANDING REALLY CLOSE TO THE PLATE
ゴゴゴゴ
THE RESOLVE TO RECEIVE A DEAD BALL...
IS HE PLANNING TO HIT A PITCH TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER?

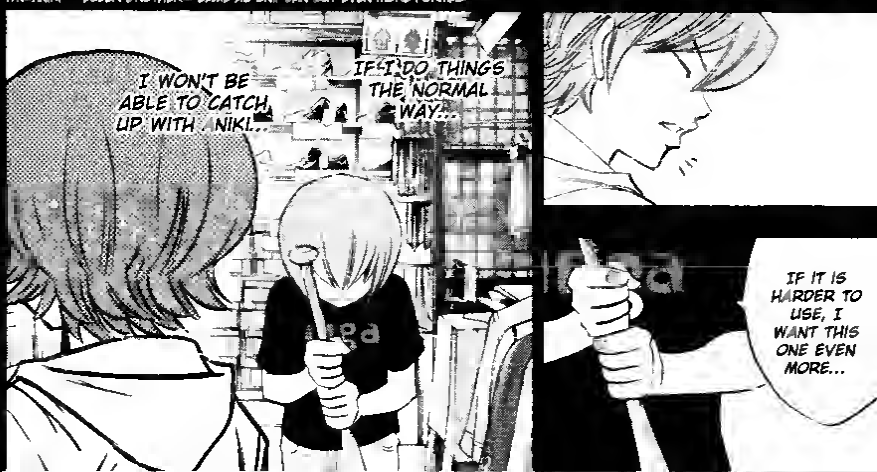
HMPH...
HE'S BAITING THEM FOR A PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER—...
I KNOW.
WE DON'T NEED A STRIKE.

FALL BACK
UNSIGHTLY—!!

I WAS ALWAYS CHASING AFTER HIM...
EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE...
MY HERO...
IS ALWAYS CLOSE TO ME...
WOW... HE'S GOOD..
THAT KID IS ONLY A 4TH YEAR?

I ADMIRED HIM...
AND WANTED TO BE EVEN A LITTLE CLOSER TO HIM...
TAKE THIS, A LIGHTER METALLIC BAT.
YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH STRENGTH AND YOUR STATURE IS SMALL
I AM FINE WITH THIS!
YOU'RE 10 YEARS TOO EARLY TO USE A WOODEN BAT...

TN: ANIKI = "ELDER BROTHER". SAME AS ONII-SAN BUT EVEN MORE FORMAL.



BUT, WELL... ONCE YOU CAN USE THIS BAT FREELY,
YOU WILL HAVE ALREADY BECOME A GREAT BATTER.
... IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO GO AGAINST ME.
I WON'T CARE IF YOU CRY LATER.
IT'S JUST... I WANT
TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY THIS PERSON...

YOU CAN HIT IT...
IF IT'S YOU...

ASHIRO

IT LANDED—
LEFT FIELDER SOYOGI-KUN RAN WITH ALL HIS MIGHT BUT STILL COULDN'T REACH IT?
ALTHOUGH PINCH HITTER KOMINATO-KUN BROKE HIS BAT, HE STILL HIT IT BEHIND THE LEFT FIELDER—!!

HAHAHA HE HIT IT AGAIN!
IF HIS BAT HADN'T BROKEN, IT WOULD'VE BEEN A FLYER TOWARD LEFT FIELD!
HE'S REALLY LUCKY!
RIGHT.... HARUICHI—
THIS ISN'T LUCK AT ALL...
2 OUT, RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD.
IN THE BEST SITUATION, THE CLEANUP IS UP NEXT.

YOU KOHAI DID WELL...
YEAAH!
I'LL TAKE ALL THE GLORY!!

CHAPTER 173 / THE BATTER WHO HITS

HN.

GAH!
ISASHIKI-KUN HITS ANOTHER FOUL.
THE COUNT IS 2 AND 2.
ALTHOUGH HE GIVES OFF THE IMPRESSION THAT HE'S A SIMPLE BATTER BECAUSE HE STARTS SWINGING FROM THE FIRST PITCH,
HE POSSESSED THE ABILITY TO HIT THE PITCHES TOWARDS THE RIGHT
IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO KEEP UP
HE'S PITCHING FOR THE DIFFICULT CORNERS
NO... HE'S ACTUALLY DOING VERY WELL

S
BRING IT!
SO LOUD...
IS HE FOCUSING ON HITTING FASTBALLS?
IF WE CAN MESS UP HIS TIMING...

...
MASA-SAN..
WHAT ARE YOU HESITATING FOR?
GO FOR IT!!
JUN-SAN!!
HIT IT!
3
TOKYO
IF HE PITCHES A CHANGEUP,
W... WE GAVE UP ON THE CHANGEUPS...
WE'RE DONE FOR—

JUN-SAN—...

ALSO, JUN-SAN...
NO..BUT... MY SPECIALTY IS LONG HITS...
IF YOU'RE SWINGING WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT...! YOU WON'T GET TO USE THIS IN GAMES.
ZONO... ARE YOU TRYING TO HIT HOMERUNS FOR ALL OF YOUR AT-BATS?
HUH!?
Rashaaa!
JUN-SAN'S FULL SWINGS ARE ALWAYS SO HAPHAZARD...
HOW DID YOU SEND IT TO THE RIGHT PERFECTLY?
HUH!?
I... ALTHOUGH I'M A CLEANUP HITTER... I DON'T THINK THAT I'M A GOOD BATTER!!
SORRY!!
DID YOU SAY HAPH...ZARD! DAMN YOU!

HOW TO GET ON BASE...
HOW TO CREATE A CHANCE...
HOW TO LET THE NEXT BATTER FOLLOW UP...
EVEN SO, EVERY AT-BAT...
I GIVE IT MY ALL TO KEEP UP WITH THE PITCHES...
ALTHOUGH IT IS REGRETTABLE...
3

THERE IS AN EVEN MORE AMAZING BATTER WHOM I CAN NEVER BEAT...
BATTING AFTER ME...
8

FINISH HIM WITH THIS PITCH!!
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME OUT...
JUST YOU TRY!

HN.
SLIDER...

IT'S TOO LOW...
BALL!

YEAH.
HE SAW THROUGH IT JUST NOW...
WITH THIS, THE COUNT IS 3 AND 2.
Yosh, Yosh!!
INASHIRO'S BATTERY MUST HAVE WANTED TO FINISH HIM OFF WITH THAT PITCH...
NOW BOTH SIDES ARE EVEN..
INASHIRO

HE MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE. BALL FOUR!

GOOD EYE, ISASHI-KI—!!
YEAH!!
THE BASES ARE LOADED!
I PLAYED THIS ROLE IN THE END...
TCH...
3

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.
CAPTAIN.

WILL YOU SEND A MESSEN-GER?
YUU-KI—!
TE-TSU—!
TETSU-SAN!

TOP OF 8TH INNING.
2 OUTS, BASES LOADED.
THE DIFFERENCE IS DOWN TO JUST 1 RUN.
002
青 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1
一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九
稲 0 0 0 2 1 0 0
H
3

IT'S THE 4TH SHOW-DOWN
FOR THE ACE AND THE CLEANUP FROM EACH TEAM!

CHAPTER 174 / HONOUR AND PRIDE

Men~~
Have their~~
Just like~~
Own World~~
1

A meteor~~
In the sky~~
Meteor~~
TOKYO

INASHIR
OBVIOUSLY, HE USED TOO MUCH POWER
IN THE LAST PITCH HE THREW AT ME
青道
TOKY
RIGHT NOW, THE GAME
IS DEFINITELY IN OUR FAVOUR—...

FINISH THIS OFF.
TETSU—
THE PLAYERS ON THE FIELD KNOW BEST WHAT THEIR SITUATION IS...
THERE'S NO NEED TO SEND A MESSEN-GER

THEY WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD.
GO FOR IT, MEI!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE WERE FACED WITH THIS SORT OF PINCH...
JUST AS USUAL.
FINISH HIM OFF.

WE BELIEVE IN OUR ACE.
新聞社
IN HIS PREVIOUS 3 AT-BATS,
SEIDOU'S MAIN BATTER WAS OVERWHELMED BY NAKU-MIYA-KUN.

Own world~
A HIT WILL TIE THE SCORE.
Have their~
Men~
A LONG HIT FOR A COMEBACK.
THE ATTENTION-GRABBING FIRST PITCH—!!

STRIKE!!
YEAH!
YEAH!
HE SWUNG AT THE FIRST PITCH WITHOUT HESITATION...
THAT WAS A FORK-BALL
EH
AMAZING HE'S NOT LETTING THE BATTER HIT IT

IS HE WAITING FOR FASTBALLS?
THE 2ND PITCH—

Uniden

Tch!
Suicidal!

AS EXPECTED, EVEN NARUMIYA-KUN IS PITCHING WITH ALL HIS MIGHT...
YEAH... THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE AFRAID OF WHEN THERE'S A RUNNER ON 3RD BASE.
HE STOPPED WELL.
THE SLIDER IS TOO LOW.
THIS BRINGS THE COUNT TO 1 AND 1.
SEIKO
TOSHIBA
KIRIN
Coca-Cola

THEY HAVEN'T AGREE ON A SIGN YET.
INASHIRO'S BATTERY HAS BECOME VERY CAUTIOUS.
ALTHOUGH HE WAS STOPPED BY CARLOS-KUN'S FINE PLAY,
HE DID MANAGED TO HIT THE FASTBALL PERFECTLY DURING HIS 3RD AT-BAT...
HE WAS STRUCK OUT CONSECUTIVELY BY HIS OPPONENT'S SPECIALTY, THE CHANGEUP, IN HIS 1ST AND 2ND AT-BAT.

AS EXPECTED, THE DECIDING FACTOR OF THIS CONFRONTATION
IS THE DECIDING CHANGEUP PITCH—...
THE 3RD PITCH—
Not that~~
Not that...
Not that.

HIT IT!
TETSU-SAN!
LEADER!

HN.
BRIDGESTONE
3

Clank

TOSHIBA
Yeah!
NARUMIYA-KUN PITCHED A FASTBALL WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.
WE'RE AHEAD IN THE COUNT!!
YEAH!

F... FAST!
IS THAT THE FASTEST TODAY?
NO, BUT YUUKI IS ALSO KEEPING UP WITH THE FASTBALL.
YOU'VE GOT THE TIMING RIGHT, TETSU-SAN!
YOU HIT IT!
BOTH SIDES CLASHED VIOLENTLY!
NAKI-AIYA!
MEI —!!
TETSU —!!
YUUKI!!
SENDING OFF SPARKS!

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 21

ーSTAFFー

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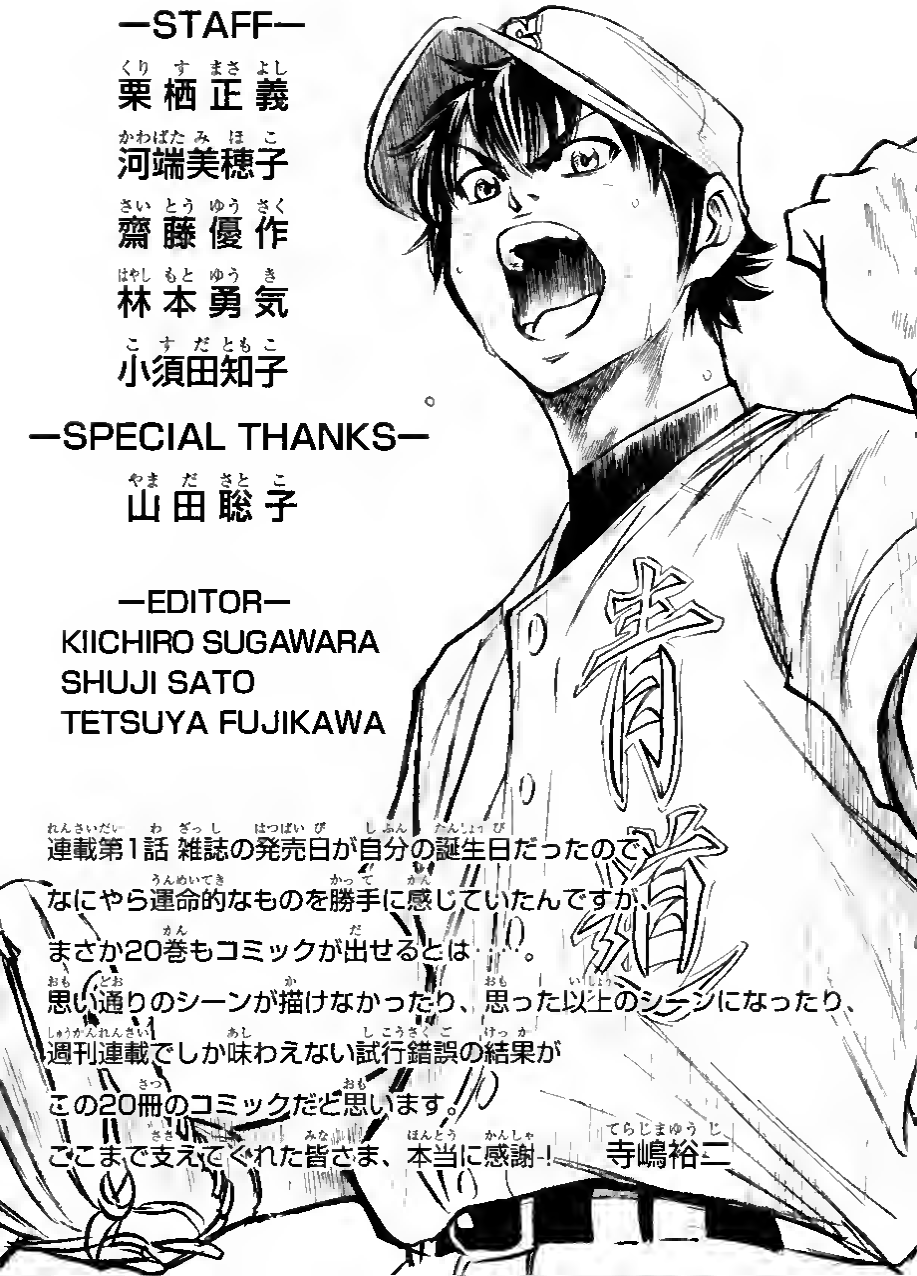
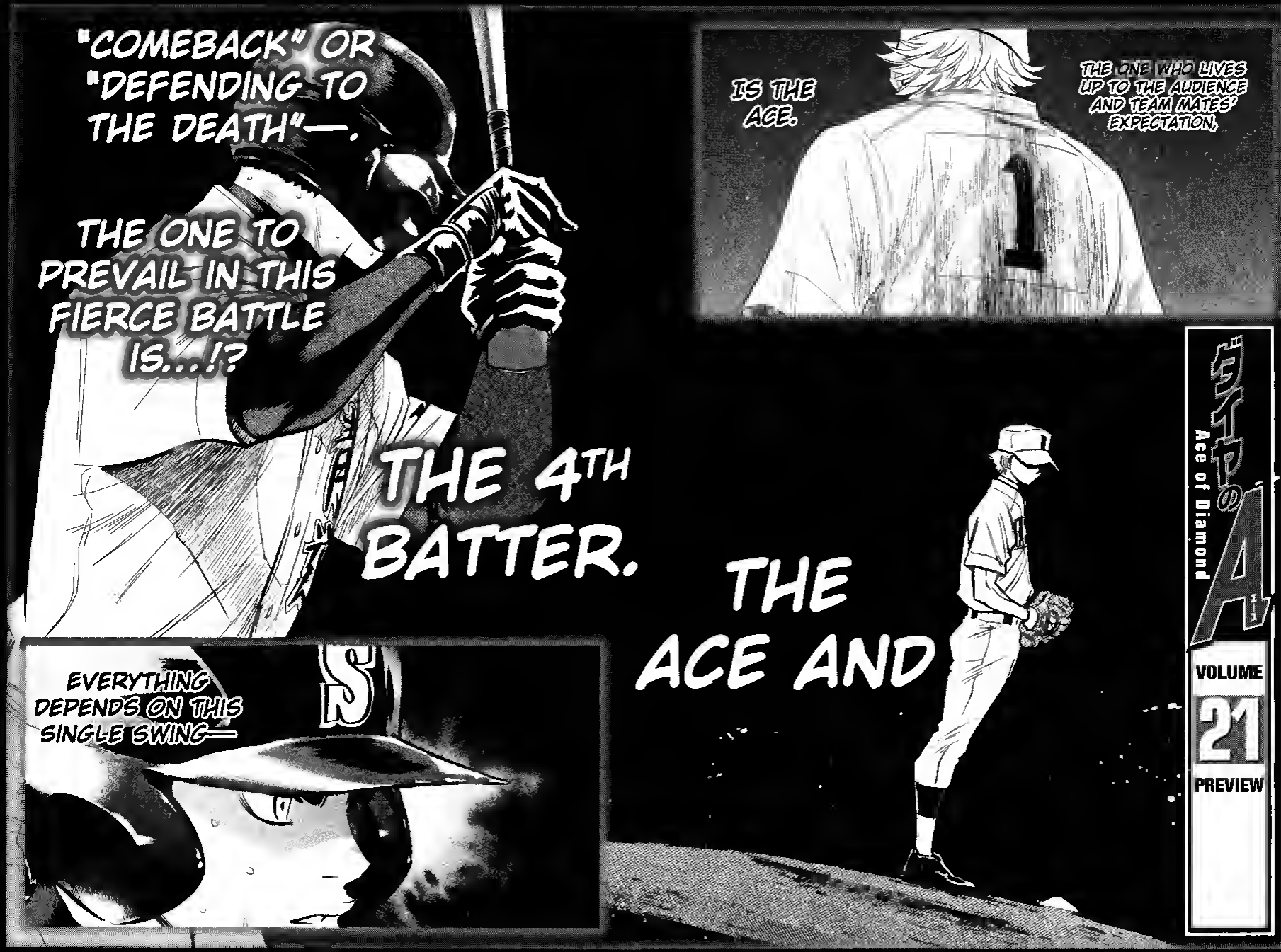


連載第1話 雑誌の発売日が自分の誕生日だったので
なにやら運命的なものを勝手に感じていたんですが、
まさか20巻もコミックが出せるとは……。
思い通りのシーンが描けなかったり、思った以上のシーンになったり、
週刊連載でしか味わえない試行錯誤の結果が
この20冊のコミックだと思います。
ここまで支えてくれた皆さま、本当に感謝！　寺嶋裕二


"COMEBACK" OR "DEFENDING TO THE DEATH"—.
THE ONE TO PREVAIL IN THIS FIERCE BATTLE IS...!?
THE 4TH BATTER.
EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THIS SINGLE SWING—
IS THE ACE.
THE ONE WHO LIVES UP TO THE AUDIENCE AND TEAM MATES' EXPECTATION.
THE ACE AND
ダイヤのA
Ace of Diamond
VOLUME 21
PREVIEW